

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Lars BLANK, *et al.*  
Title: **METHOD OF IMPROVING BIOMASS YIELD  
OF LACTIC ACID BACTERIAL CULTURES**  
Appl. No.: 10/623,578  
Filing Date: 7/22/2003  
Examiner: Kade Ariani  
Art Unit: 1651  
Confirmation  
Number: 6542

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated April 19, 2007, concerning the above-referenced patent application. By virtue of the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time and payment of the prescribed fees, this response is timely filed.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this document.